

*Wendy*

**Regional Administrator's Program Briefing  
September 12, 2005**

ORIGINAL



**Program/Topic:** Cecil County, MD Farmer's Request for Compensation

**Names of briefing attendees:** Abe Ferdas, Dennis Carney, Hank Sokolowski,  
Bill Early, Charlie Howland, Mark Stephens

**Duration of briefing:** 45 minutes

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**Purpose of Briefing:** Cecil County, MD Farmer's Request for  
Compensation; Letter from Governor Ehrlich

**Background:**

- Superfund gained access and commenced Removal evaluation activities last Spring related to the former Triumph Explosives site in Elkton, MD.
- Discarded military munitions and debris remain at the 'Firehole' site where open burning/open detonation took place in 1942-1945. Explosives experts from the Corps of Engineers have tentatively classified the site within their highest risk category. ("Risk Assessment Code 1" (out of 5))
- The OSC secured 55 acres based on electromagnetic surveys, in a 100+ acre parcel that Mr. Spry leased and actively farmed for over thirty years. The farming activities have likely spread contamination over much of the 100+ acres. Despite MDE suggestions as early as July 2002, to not farm there, Mr. Spry continues to plant, most recently having planted soybeans.
- Mr. Spry is seeking to recover for his losses/lost crop.
- In 2004, MDE nominated an area of Elkton as the Region III One Cleanup Program Pilot site, including the former Triumph Explosives site, which is adjacent to the Elkton farm and which is a Formerly Used Defense Site ("FUDS"), administered by the Corps of Engineers. Discussions are ongoing with the Corps about their responsibility and future involvement.

**Key Issues:** Payment of compensation

**Action Items for RA:** Respond to Gov. Ehrlich

**List of Attachments:** None

**EPA Staff Contact:** Mark Stephens, 4-3353

- reply to Erlich w/ our position
- current position:
  - EPA will compensate farmer -> we can discuss w/ Erlich
- site security exists
- have draft action memo -> try to get COE to do work first